From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Bezos Alleges Blackmail Attempt by National Enquirer's Publisher
Date: Friday, February 8, 2019 7:04:52 AM

By Morgan Halvorsen

Top Stories

- Amazon.com Inc. Chief Executive Jeff Bezos said in a blog post that he has been the target of an "extortion and blackmail" attempt by American Media Inc., which he said tried to halt his investigation into The National Enquirer's story on his extramarital affair. In a statement, American Media said that it believed it had been engaging in "good-faith negotiations" with Bezos but that it would "thoroughly investigate the claims." (The Wall Street Journal)

- A review of emails and receipts shared by Amazon.com Inc.'s contracted drivers for its Flex program shows that the company uses customer tips to meet a promised minimum wage of $18 to $25 per hour. Amazon said drivers receive the total amount of their tips but declined to say whether it

uses those tips to cover the drivers' minimum pay. (Los Angeles Times)

- Before MWC Barcelona starts on Feb. 25, President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order that would ban Chinese telecom equipment from U.S. wireless networks, according to three sources, with one person close to the administration saying that Trump intends to sign it next week. This could complicate not only U.S.-Chinese trade relations but a 5G buildout for U.S. companies, as Huawei Technologies Co. controls more than a quarter of the global telecom equipment market. (Politico)

Chart Review

Deep Job Cuts Hit Media in January, Tech Sees Hiring Slowing This Year
The Information

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

02/08/2019

Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board's "Countering Terrorism while Protecting Privacy and Civil Liberties: Where do We Stand in 2019?" public forum	10:00 am
TechCrunch's 2nd Annual Winter Party at Galvanize	6:00 pm

02/11/2019

IAB Annual Leadership Meeting	
Brookings Institution's "Smart cities and artificial intelligence" event	10:00 am

02/12/2019

IAB Annual Leadership Meeting	
Charlotte CIO Executive Leadership Summit	7:30 am
ITIF's "Moving America: How Policymakers Can Accelerate Automation in Freight Transportation" panel discussion	10:00 am
IBM Think	3:30 pm
National Insider Threat Special Interest Group Maryland Chapter meeting	9:00 am

02/13/2019

House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on T-Mobile-Sprint merger	10:00 am
IBM Think	6:30 am
The Information's Panel on Hybrid Cloud and Microservices at IBM's Think	12:30 pm

02/14/2019

IBM Think	6:30 am
House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on T-Mobile-Sprint merger	10:00 am
FCC February Open Commission Meeting	10:30 am

02/15/2019

IBM Think	8:30 am

View full calendar

1 Platform, 12 Countries, 5 Million Interviews

Morning Consult is proud to announce that Brand Intelligence is now global, tracking over 3,000 brands across 12 countries.

General

Senators Write to Facebook, Google, Apple Over Teen Data Monitoring
Ashley Gold, The Information

A bipartisan trio of senators wrote to Apple, Google and Facebook on Thursday expressing concern about the monitoring of teens online and asking for more information about a recently discontinued Facebook app that paid consumers to allow the social media giant to collect data on how they used their mobile phones. The letters, sent by Democratic Sens. Ed Markey and Richard Blumenthal and their Republican colleague Sen. Josh Hawley, follow revelations that Facebook and Google bypassed Apple's app store when they asked users to install data monitoring apps.

Woody Allen Files $68 Million Suit Against Amazon for Film Deal Breach
Gene Maddaus, Variety

Woody Allen filed a $68 million suit against Amazon Studios Thursday, alleging that the streamer has backed out of a four-picture deal due to "a 25-year-old, baseless allegation."

Google Is Pulling Websites From Searches At Russia's Request
Hayes Brown, BuzzFeed News

Sites that Russia's state media watchdog object to no longer appear on Google searches inside Russia after years of pressure, a local newspaper reported on Wednesday.

China leads research into hypersonic technology: report
Janosch Delecker, Politico

China is dominating research into technology that could allow missiles to travel five times the speed of sound and outmaneuver air defense systems, new data by the Munich Security Conference suggests.

How Amazon's Booming NYC Neighborhood Got Tax Perks Meant for the Poor
Caleb Melby and Lauren Leatherby, Bloomberg

The Amazon.com Inc. executives looked battered after more than an hour of questioning last week about their plans to build an office in New York. City Council members thrashed the retailer for its resistance to unions, working conditions at warehouses and its founder's wealth. The responses drew laughter from the balcony.

U.S. Stock Futures Decline on Pessimism Over Trade: Markets Wrap
Todd White, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures and Asian shares fell as concern over economic growth and trade disputes pushed global stock markets toward their first weekly loss since December. European stocks were steady, while Treasuries and bunds edged higher.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

Facebook Antitrust Order May Be Template for Other Probes: Mundt
Aoife White, Bloomberg

The German Federal Cartel Office's Facebook Inc. decision may prove a template for "similar companies with similar problems," according to Andreas Mundt, the authority's president.

Sprint sues AT&T over its fake 5G branding
Richard Lawler, engadget

After AT&T decided to start rolling out "5G Evolution" branding on phones and networks that use 4G LTE Advanced technology, competitors have had to make decisions on how to respond. While T-Mobile mocked it with a sticker, Verizon (Engadget's parent company) fired off a letter.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Net neutrality is facing an old partisan divide in a new Congress
Makena Kelly, The Verge

House lawmakers from the Energy and Commerce Committee held their first hearing on net neutrality today, and while most said they agreed with several key concepts, a clear partisan divide emerged over what "net neutrality" rules should look like.

Google Fiber's secret weapon in its gigabit comeback has failed
Jason Hiner, CNET

Google's trick to more rapidly and cheaply deploy its super-speedy Google Fiber project has hit a wall, complicating the company's broader attempt to get its gigabit service back on track across the nation.

Huawei Deals for Tech Will Have Consequences, U.S. Warns EU
Nikos Chrysoloras and Richard Bravo, Bloomberg

Any Western country allowing Huawei Technologies Co. or other Chinese equipment to be used in critical infrastructure projects will face the risk of U.S. countermeasures, the U.S. envoy to the European Union said.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Instagram Bans Graphic Images of Self-Harm After Teenager's Suicide
Julia Jacobs, The New York Times

Instagram announced on Thursday that it would no longer allow graphic images of self-harm, such as cutting, on its platform. The change appears to be in response to public attention to how the social network might have influenced a 14-year-old's suicide.

YouTube removes channel after creator pleads guilty to coercing young fans into sending sexual content
Julia Alexander, The Verge

YouTube has changed directions and decided to remove the channel of a prominent creator who pleaded guilty earlier this week to coercing a number of underage girls into sending sexually explicit videos.

'Divide and conquer forever.' Inside the partnership of Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg
Seth Fiegerman, CNN

Before Mark Zuckerberg testified in front of Congress last year, he and his team prepared by holding mock hearings inside a Facebook conference room set up to look like a congressional room.

Postmates confidentially files for IPO
Diptendu Lahiri, Reuters

Grocery and food delivery platform Postmates Inc said on Thursday it had confidentially filed for an initial public offering with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Spotify bans ad blockers in updated Terms of Service
Dami Lee, The Verge

Spotify is now explicitly banning ad blockers, as stated in an updated Terms of Service policy sent out today. The new rules specifically state that "circumventing or blocking advertisements in the Spotify Service, or creating or distributing tools designed to block advertisements in the Spotify Service" can result in immediate termination or suspension of your account.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Democrats Already Have A Big 2020 Hacking Problem
Ruby Cramer and Kevin Collier, BuzzFeed News

Officials at the Democratic National Committee, the arm of the party that oversees the nominating process every four years, believe they have the tools to help candidates guard against the foreign actors that upended the 2016 election. A few simple steps, they say, can instill a strong culture of cybersecurity from the outset.

Using DNA Databases To Find Your Distant Relatives? So Is The FBI.
Salvador Hernandez, BuzzFeed News

A majority of Americans could be genetically traced by the FBI using consumer genealogy databases and pinpointing a distant family member's DNA, researchers say, greatly expanding investigators' ability to identify members of the public suspected of crimes. With access to two large consumer genealogy libraries, federal investigators now have the potential to find a DNA match as close as a third cousin to more than half of Americans, and the growing popularity of at-home testing kits means it will only get easier with time.

How criminals use Uber and Airbnb to launder money stolen from your credit card
Kate Fazzini, CNBC

Cybercriminals are turning to new technologies to launder their ill-gotten gains, including recruiting fake Uber drivers, shady Airbnb hosts and crypto conversion specialists via the underground dark web, experts say.

Exclusive: Dell explores sale of cybersecurity company SecureWorks - sources
Liana B. Baker and Pamela Barbaglia, Reuters

Computer maker Dell Technologies Inc is exploring a sale of SecureWorks Corp, a U.S. provider of cybersecurity services with a market value of close to $2 billion, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Microsoft Backs Facial Recognition Bill as Amazon Mulls Support
Dina Bass, Bloomberg

Two months after calling for laws to regulate facial-recognition software, Microsoft Corp. is lobbying on behalf of a first-of-its-kind bill in its home state of Washington. The question is whether cross-town rival Amazon.com Inc. will support it.

Apple tells app developers to disclose or remove screen recording code
Zack Whittaker, TechCrunch

Apple is telling app developers to remove or properly disclose their use of analytics code that allows them to record how a user interacts with their iPhone apps - or face removal from the app store, TechCrunch can confirm.

Microsoft to update Office Pro Plus after Dutch ministry questions privacy
Daniel Lippman, Politico

Microsoft plans to update its Office Pro Plus products by the end of April to address a series of privacy concerns raised in an audit commissioned by the Dutch justice ministry that flagged what the auditors called "high risks" to government users' privacy.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

No thank you, Mr. Pecker
Jeff Bezos, Medium

Something unusual happened to me yesterday. Actually, for me it wasn't just unusual-it was a first. I was made an offer I couldn't refuse.

The Debate Over Startups and Tipping Could Be Just Heating Up
Eric Newcomer, Bloomberg

Here's what happened: Instacart guaranteed its workers $10 per delivery, but only made them whole after accounting for customers' tips. DoorDash had a similar policy.

The Stark Political Divide Between Tech CEOs and Their Employees
Moira Weigel and Ben Tarnoff, The New Republic

Two years ago, two Stanford professors teamed up with a journalist to survey more than 600 "elite technology company leaders and founders" about their political views. The average executive, they found, believes in free markets, supports gay marriage, likes environmental protection, hates unions, and distrusts regulation. He says he wants higher taxes to fund social programs, but he'd prefer it if entrepreneurs ran such programs instead of the government.

Research Reports

Over Half of Companies Are Upping Spending on IT Security
Paul Shread, eSecurity Planet

Driven by fear of data breaches and new privacy regulations, such as Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), large enterprises are spending aggressively on IT security measures, according to *eSecurity Planet*'s newly released 2019 State of IT Security survey.

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